

**SPORTS AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE
& DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Minutes of the September 19, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sommet Center Meeting Rooms J-K
9:30 a.m.

Board Members: Arnett Bodenhamer, Lauren Brisky, J. D. Elliott, Kitty Emery, Forrest Harris, Mike Hobbs, Cathy Bender Jackson, Kevin P. Lavender, Rusty Lawrence, Ralph Perrey, Steve North, Edward Temple, Helen Walker

Staff: Emmett Edwards (Sports Authority), Monica Clayton (Sports Authority), Tom Cross (Legal), Bob Lackey

Titans/Cumberland Stadium: Steve Underwood, Don MacLachlan, Walter Overton

Predators/Powers Management: Hugh Lombardi, Brock Jones, Dwayne Smith

Visitors: Russell Payne, David Freeman, Ralph Shultz, Sue Cain, Larry Thrailkill, Teresa Phillips, Carl Pillow, Clinton Gray, Frank Curry, Brasher Burbank, Richard Wagner

Mr. Kevin P. Lavender called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the August meeting were unanimously approved. Ms. Monica Clayton stated that under Metro Code of Laws (Ordinance No. BL2006-1050, § 2.68.030) notice must be given at all meetings that decisions of the Sports Authority Board may be appealed to the Chancery Court of Davidson County for review under a common law writ of certiorari. Any appeal must be filed within sixty days after entry of a final decision by the Board. Any person or other entity considering an appeal should consult with an attorney to ensure that time and procedural requirements are met. Mr. Lavender asked that visitors of the meeting state their name and the company/organization they represent.

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. Russell Payne of the Nashville Downtown Partnership to address the Board. Mr. Payne stated that the Downtown Partnership was seeking to renew its contract with the Sports Authority for management of its parking program at LP Field to provide shuttle service for downtown Nashville workers. Mr. Payne reported that the program had grown from 171 riders at its inception to more than 1900 riders today. **Mr. Payne reminded the Board that the Finance Committee had recommended approval of the renewal and, upon a motion duly seconded, the Sports Authority unanimously voted to renew its contract with the Nashville Downtown Partnership.**

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. J.D. Elliott to give the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Elliott reported that the Finance Committee met on September 12, 2007. The committee discussed the aforementioned Nashville Downtown Partnership Contract renewal with Mr. Payne and received an LP Field Report from Mr. Don MacLachlan who reported that the Titans are keeping a watchful eye on the capital fund. The Titans have requested \$2.2 million for Phase 3 of the scoreboard upgrades and no other significant capital requests are forthcoming. Mr. Elliott also reported that the committee discussed parking issues at LP Field during Tennessee State University's (TSU) John Merritt Classic, and that an evaluation meeting had been held with representatives from LP Field, TSU, the Sports Authority, Metro Police, Public Works, and Central Parking Systems to discuss ways to improve the game day parking and logistics during TSU football games.

Mr. Elliott continued by sharing that Mr. Emmett Edwards informed the committee that the parking lots at LP Field had been striped and that the total number of spaces yielded is just under the 7,500 goal. **Mr. Edwards asked the committee if they would be agreeable to examining how the additional spaces could be secured and the committee, upon a motion**

duly seconded, agreed to have staff research ways to achieve additional parking in order to meet the target of 7,500 spaces. Finally, Mr. Elliott reported that the committee received a Sommet Center update from Mr. Hugh Lombardi who would share his report with the Full Board during the meeting.

“Our Team” Campaign

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. Ron Samuels to address the Board. Mr. Samuels reminded the Board that a coalition of businesses and associations had formed in support of the Predators shortly after Mr. Leipold announced his intent to sell the team. One of the main issues the group has focused on is the selling of 14,000 tickets per game. While the group’s initial goal was to sell an additional 3,000 season tickets, the “Our Team” Campaign has currently sold more than 9,200 season tickets and expects to hit the 10,000 mark. Sales of 10,000 season tickets, combined with the average game walk up of 4,000 totals the 14,000 needed to keep the current lease in place and allows the team to receive the additional revenue split allowed by the league.

LP Field Report

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. Steve Underwood to give the LP Field Report. Mr. Underwood reported that, as usual, the Titans’ calendar of events could be found in the monthly Periodic Report presented to the Board, and informed the Board that event bookings at LP Field are at an all-time high. Mr. Underwood reported that the Titans continue to manage expenditures in a way that will not deplete the Capital Fund, and noted that details of current outstanding invoices as well as a copy of the request for reimbursement for Phase 3 of the Scoreboard Upgrade were also included in the Periodic Report.

Mr. Underwood continued by reporting that the sealing and re-stripping of the stadium lots yielded 200 additional spaces. Mr. Underwood stated that the lots have never looked better. Mr. Underwood also reported that LP Field continues to have problems with drag racing on the weekends. Bids have been solicited to prevent unauthorized entrance into the lots. Costs are estimated at \$18,000 and are included in the Periodic Report.

The Sommet Center Report

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. Hugh Lombardi to give the Sommet Center Report. Mr. Lombardi stated that he would not give a monthly report, reminding the Board that two years ago they agreed to wait until after the audit in October of each year to receive the year-end report as well as the first quarter report for the new fiscal year.

Mr. Lombardi reported that the Sommet Center had a very busy summer, noting the addition of several Capital Improvements such as the score board, seating, and concession upgrades. In regards to events, the Sommet Center has hosted conferences such as Shaklee and Beth Moore’s Living Proof seminars as well as Disney’s High School Musical and WWE. Keith Urban, Hannah Montana, and many other shows are planned for the fall.

Predators Update

Mr. Lavender recognized Mr. David Freeman to address the Board with regards to Predators negotiations. Mr. Freeman thanked Mr. Ron Samuels and Mr. Ralph Shultz for their ongoing support. Mr. Freeman reported that his group of investors has completed their agreement with Mr. Craig Leipold. The remaining step is to try to make the team more viable through a lease amendment, following which they expect to get the approval of the NHL. Mr. Freeman stated that:

- The Mayor, Metro Council, Sports Authority, Downtown Partnership, Chamber of Commerce and the community is supportive of the Predators and wants the team to stay in Nashville.

- The Group agrees with Mayor-Elect Dean and Chairman Lavender that a mandatory obligation on the part of Metro to purchase tickets to assure that the team reaches the league minimum of what is currently 14,000 in paid attendance may not be in the best interest of the city. Any future proposal from the group will not contain a mandatory ticket purchase request. Any future proposals from the group will place any added obligation for achieving and maintaining the necessary per game attendance on the group and the fans, not on Metro. Once Mayor-Elect Dean has had an opportunity to look at the situation more closely they will discuss their ideas with Chairman Lavender and come directly back to the Sports Authority.
- One aspect that is important to the club and the city is a change that provides an incentive for the manager of the building to maximize the use of the building-an incentive that does not exist today. The group believes that the Sommet Center is a powerful facility that can be used another 20-30 nights a year for non-hockey events that will generate tremendous economic activity and generate increased tax collections. The group is excited about creating a music venue out of the rehearsal hall.
- The group understands that the future of the team is not any one entity's decision but a collective decision by the new administration, the Sports Authority, and the Council. They commit to put a plan together that will keep hockey in Nashville, make hockey successful in Nashville, a plan that puts the additional burden for securing the team on arena users instead of the general public, and a plan that enhances the positive economic impact that hockey has now and will continue to have on Nashville.

Mr. Lavender reiterated that this process is a collaborative effort and that when a proposal is received by the Mayor and Sports Authority Chair it will immediately be distributed to the rest of the Authority who will then be on stand by until a special meeting is called.

Other Business

Mr. Edward Temple invited Ms. Teresa Phillips, Tennessee State University (TSU) Director of Athletics, to address the Board with regards to TSU's game day parking and operations at LP Field. Ms. Phillips thanked the Board for its support over the years as well as Steve Underwood, Don MacLachlan, and Walter Overton. Ms. Phillips stated the difficulty TSU has experienced with the implementation of an effective game day plan despite pre-game meetings and discussions. She noted that while TSU understands their games will be handled differently than Titans games, they do expect to receive the same quality of service. Ms. Phillips additionally expressed her frustration and disappointment with the service they received from Central Parking System (CPS) who she stated did not have proper management and personnel in place to handle the demands associated with the John Merritt Classic. Mr. Richard Wagner of Central Parking addressed the Board, stating that CPS does accept responsibility for many of the problems experienced at the game and that they are working on game day plans that will be shared with TSU, Metro Police, Metro Public Works, and the Sports Authority for future games.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.